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SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL PAPER*

In its introduction the paper emphasizes the interrelationship that exists between the maintenance and strengthening of peace, the continuation and further consolidation of the policy of détente, the need to expand that policy to the military field, and the utilization and development of science and technology for social and economic progress. Proceeding from this, the German Democratic Republic regards the Conference as a step towards further implementing the principles of peaceful coexistence of States with different social systems, as an important contribution towards restructuring international economic relations on a democratic and just basis as well as towards abolishing still existing forms of inequity and discrimination with respect to co-operation in the field of science and technology.

In its second part the paper gives a brief outline of the German Democratic Republic experience and objectives in the field of science and technology in solving social and economic problems according to national economic targets. In the German Democratic Republic, science policy is an integral part of the over-all policy of social development. Science and technology are being developed purposefully and on a long-term basis in the interest and for the benefit of the entire people. The continuous consolidation of economic, scientific and technological, and cultural co-operation with the socialist countries within the framework of socialist economic integration forms part of this systematic development.

The close connexion between economic and social policies in the German Democratic Republic requires to consistently raise the socio-economic efficiency of science and technology. To speed up scientific and technological progress attention is being concentrated on the solution of the following problems:

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* The designations employed, the presentation of material and the views expressed in this paper are those of the Government of the German Democratic Republic and do not necessarily reflect the practices and views of the Secretariat of the United Nations in any of these respects.

- to increase labour productivity in all economic areas by means of intensifying production and rationalization of social work; to set free labour for work at new projects;

- to ensure the supply of the economy with raw materials and energy by exploring domestic resources and taking measures to economize material and energy inputs;

- to breed and develop efficient plant and animal species and to introduce new or further developed procedures, installations and technologies in crop and animal production and for the rationalization of forestry and food industry;

- to maintain and promote the people's health, especially by comprehensive prophylactic measures, the control of dangerous diseases and by measures of environment protection;

- to develop low-waste technologies which have no harmful effects on the environment, in the interest of protecting the atmosphere and waters against pollution and of improving the conditions of labour hygiene.

To implement these tasks essential conditions were created in that measures were taken to ensure long-term research planning in all fields of social development, the speedy application of research findings in the production industries and a higher level of training and advanced training of scientists, and in that substantial funds were made available for science and technology.

The socialist system of society in the German Democratic Republic ensures that all measures aimed at utilizing scientific and technological progress, intensifying production and increasing labour productivity go hand in hand with the improvement of the people's living and working conditions. The fundamental right to work and to an employment in line with the individual's capabilities and social requirements is fully quaranteed in the German Democratic Republic also under the conditions of socialist rationalization in the national economy.

The third part of the paper deals with the ever closer co-operation between the German Democratic Republic and the socialist countries in the field of science and technology, including the continuous development and strengthening of multilateral co-operation among the socialist countries in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA).. A completely new type of co-operation among the socialist countries has emerged based on a common ideology, shared socio-economic objectives and an almost equal level of technical and technological development. This co-operation is marked by the constant expansion of specialization and co-operation in the fields of research, development and production, resulting in an ever closer integration of the national economies of the socialist countries for their mutual benefit. The Comprehensive Programme for the further extension and improvement of co-operation and the development of socialist economic integration adopted by the CMEA member countries in 1971, and the elaboration and implementation of long-term target programmes in selected fields covering the period up to 1990 play an important role in this process.

Jointly co-ordinated action in the solving of long-range tasks in the fields of supply of fuel, energy, raw materials, high-capacity machinery and equipment, as well as in other fields, opens up for the German Democratic Republic and the other socialist countries greater possibilities for the effective use of their natural resources and their economic, scientific and technological potential.

Part four of the paper outlines the German Democratic Republic's policy to assist developing countries in the development of an economic, scientific and technological basis of their own. In this co-operation the German Democratic Republic is guided by the principle of supporting the peoples of these countries in their struggle for economic independence, and against colonialism and neo-colonialism, and in the development of their national economies. The German Democratic Republic proceeds from the fact that all co-operation has to be based on equal rights, respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage.

Co-operation is successfully developing in particular with those developing countries that are ready to negotiate long-term intergovernmental agreements on the basis of normal and equitable relations and in the mutual interest. Within the framework of governmental agreements the German Democratic Republic maintains at present commercial, economic, scientific and technological relations with some 50 developing countries.

By supplying plants, complete factories and equipment, transferring technologies, licences and other scientific and technological documentations and information, by sending experts and training scientific and technical personnel in the German Democratic Republic and in the developing countries concerned, the German Democratic Republic renders these countries effective assistance in the development of their economic, scientific and technological capacities and in their efforts to overcome their technological backwardness.

Experience made by the German Democratic Republic and other socialist countries show that industrialization, intensification of agriculture, an increased export capability by using own raw material resources and harnessing all other domestic resources, the development of an infrastructure, the introduction of efficient national economic planning, progressive economic legislation and, finally, the road of socio-economic development they have chosen constitute the decisive factors in the development of an economic potential, which in turn is essential for their participation as equals in the international division of labour. In its co-operation with developing countries the German Democratic Republic therefore endeavours to assist them especially in those fields to build up their national economies.

The last part of the paper deals with the tasks of the Conference regarding international co-operation in science and technology. Starting point and guidelines for this co-operation should, in the view of the German Democratic Republic, be the principles of the United Nations Charter, the fundamental decisions taken by the sixth and seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and other progressive resolutions. Strict respect for and application of the principles of sovereignty and equality of

States, of non-interference in their internal affairs and mutual advantage are cornerstones of this co-operation.

It is of crucial importance to all countries, including the developing countries, to create scientific and technological infrastructures of their own, to develop corresponding scientific and technological potentials. Measures of international co-operation based on the above-mentioned principles can and should support the national efforts of developing countries. Acdording to the experience of the German Democratic Republic bilateral co-operation in science and technology. is most appropriate to achieve effective progress.

The United Nations Organization, its bodies and specialized agencies play an increasing role in multilateral co-operation in the field of science and technology. Well-proved forms of such co-operation within the United Nations system should be continued and strengthened with a view to ensuring a maximum degree of co-ordination and avoiding overlapping. All activities of the United Nations and its bodies must be aimed at contributing to the elimination of all forms of colonialism and neo-colonialism and of all manifestations of still existing discrimination as well as of artificial obstacles hindering international co-operation in science and technology. This is required to oppose those forces that seek to prevent a restructuring of the international economic relations on a democratic and equitable basis.

Any progress in the development and application of science and technology ultimately depends on the extent to which peace can be made more stable and the process of détente be deepened. Effective measures in the field of disarmament and arms limitation are indispensable steps to this end. The Conference should consider it a priority task to identify the negative effects of the arms race on the development and application of science and technology, to help overcome the burdens created as a result thereof, and finally to assist in the responsible task of harnessing the tremendous powers of modern science and technology for the benefit of society.